

From: Stefanie Novakowski <stefanie.novakowski@bccchr.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Clerks <Clerks@portmoody.ca>
Subject: City Hall Lighting Request <> World Sepsis Day

Hi,

We would like to request your help in promoting [World Sepsis Day](#) on September 13, 2021. For the past 3 years, the Centre for International Child Health at BC Children's Hospital and the UBC Research Excellence Cluster, Action on Sepsis, have worked with local partners around the city of Vancouver to have local landmarks (e.g., BC Place, Science World, Vancouver Convention Centre) light up PINK to help raise awareness of sepsis, and promote World Sepsis Day through social media. This year, we'd like to extend these activities beyond Vancouver, with landmarks in cities across Greater Vancouver lighting up in pink.

In 2020, breakthrough research, supported by BC Children's Hospital Foundation, found that sepsis was responsible for 1 in every 5 deaths worldwide - and still most people have never even heard of it! Sepsis, often referred to as 'blood poisoning', and is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs. It is frequently confused with other conditions in its early stages, with delayed recognition of the signs and symptoms quickly leading to multi-system organ failure, and, ultimately, death. Sepsis can arise from any infection, and most deaths from severe COVID-19 are indeed viral sepsis. Despite advances medical care, incidences of sepsis in children and adults in Canada continues to climb. Every year approximately 30,000 Canadians will be affected by sepsis and 20-30% of those affected will die. Sepsis disproportionately affects those with altered immune systems, such as infants, the elderly, women who are pregnant, or those already suffering infection or other health complications. Beside causing death, the long-term effects of sepsis place an enormous burden on sepsis survivors, their families, and the health care systems. Up to 50% of sepsis survivors suffer long-term physical, cognitive and psychological sequelae, and many will be re-admitted to the hospital within the following year. Critically-ill COVID-19 patients have similar long term effects such as chronic fatigue, muscle weakness, loss of sense of smell, and concentration difficulties and according rehabilitation requirements.

There is still much that needs to be done to in order to better understand the development of sepsis and its long-term complications and improve health practices related to identifying and treating this dangerous and deadly condition. We hope you'll join us in raising awareness of this global health emergency. I'm happy to answer further questions, and can be reached through this email (stefanie.novakowski@bccchr.ca) or by phone at 604-992-4481.

Thank you,

Stefanie Novakowski
Grants Facilitator
Centre for International Child Health | BC Children's Hospital

305-4088 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC V5Z 2X8
P: 604.992.4481 | stefanie.novakowski@bcchr.ca
<http://www.bcchildrens.ca/globalhealth/>
@CICHInfo